Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
Completion Report

Report Name:	Wokingham Aisha and Ciara CSPR Completion Report
Reporting Officer:	Alastair Harsant, Partnership Manager, Business Unit, Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership with Wokingham Local Authority Sara James and Estelle Kelleway.
What happened to the child/young person to initiate the review? (Please provide a short description)	Two siblings, Aisha and Ciara were found to have been sexually abused by 'Paul', who was known to their parent, but lived outside of the family home. A successful police investigation was undertaken; Paul was found guilty and has received a lengthy prison sentence. The Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership undertook a Rapid Review which concluded that the circumstances met the criteria for a local child safeguarding practice review (CSPR) as set out in Working Together 2018.
How was the review carried out?	**Timeline:** • Notification of serious safeguarding incident made on 10.08.2020 • Rapid Review initiated and meeting held on 20.08.2020 • Independent Reviewer: Jane Wiffin • Terms of Reference agreed on 13.11.2020 • Key Lines of Enquiry requested for submission by 4.01.2021 **Panel Meetings:** • First panel meeting took place on 12.11.2020 • Second panel meeting took place on 08.12.2020 • Third panel meeting took place on 09.02.21 • Fourth panel meeting took place on 30.04.2021 • Fifth panel meeting took place on 27.05.2021 • Practitioner feedback session took place on 22.06.2021 • Sixth panel meeting took place on 08.11.2021 • Seventh panel meeting took place on 07.01.2022 **CSPR Report Submissions:** • CSPR Report V1 received on 25.05.2021 • CSPR Report V2 received on 16.06.2021 • CSPR Report V3 received on 07.09.2021 • CSPR Report V4 received on 18.01.2022 • CSPR Report V5 received on 21.02.2022 • CSPR Report V6 received on 10.03.2022 • The final version of the CSPR Report received on 16.06.2022 **Publication:** • The report and learning brief were published in July 2022.
What were the learning points from the review?	**Finding 1:** The importance of establishing and understanding a parent's learning needs/borderline learning difficulty.

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	Learning: • Practitioners need to obtain a good understanding of parents' learning needs and this should inform their approach to practice: Multi-agency guidance about best practice in working with parents who have a learning disability, including where there is no formal diagnosis, but a professional assessment of need is required • Training for professionals • Access to easy read materials and ability/support/guidance about how to adapt existing reports into easy read versions • A parent's/carers guide to early help, child in need and child protection meetings and plans • Access to advocacy and buddies for parents to assist with attending meetings • Routine signposting to organisations such as Family Rights Group which has an advice service • Information sheets and explanations of common words and phrases used in child welfare services **Finding 2:** A structured approach to child neglect. **Learning:** It was recognized that a structured and consistent approach to working with neglect was required. For example: • Agreement about tools and frameworks used locally to identify and address neglect • Multi-agency information about the purpose and process of child in need meetings, including clarity about roles and responsibilities. • A leaflet for families (and children) about child in need meetings, covering an outline of the purpose and process, their right to be supported by an advocate. **Finding 3:** Working effectively to address child sexual abuse. **Learning:** The need to support the workforce across the partnership to develop their knowledge and understanding of child sexual abuse by: Awareness raising training • Information about signs and indicators (a tool is being published by the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse in September 2021) • Information about talking to children and being curious about behaviour that are of concern and indicate sexual abuse may be an issue (a guide is being published by the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse in October 2021 • Communicating with children • Assessing and working with non-abusing parents (a guide is being published by the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse in October 2021) • Working with adults who pose a sexual risk to children **Finding 4:** The importance of Child Focussed Practice. **Learning:** The need to support the workforce in developing their skills in communicating with children, who don't communicate verbally. **Finding 5:** Recognizing and acting upon "gut" feelings. **Learning:** How supervision can be a space to reflect upon and analyse what is driving the 'gut feeling'.

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What recommendations were made and what actions were taken to address the recommendations?	**Recommendation 1:** Consistent and structured approach to neglect - BWSCP convened a multi-agency neglect working group which looked at developing a position statement and reviewing tools and frameworks for a structure approach to neglect. **Action 1.1:** Multi-Agency Neglect Working Group to be developed to consider: • Neglect expectation statement • Neglect Guidance/Framework **Impact:** A Partnership wide Neglect Strategy, with tools, was published here in 2024. Action 1.2: Pan Berkshire Policy & Procedures – Neglect Procedure – to be reviewed and refreshed to incorporate the learning from the review. **Impact:** The Berkshire wide Neglect Procedure was reviewed and is published as of March 2025. The BWSCP promoted the chapter via the Pan Berkshire Policy and Procedure Newsletter found here . The Pan Berkshire Policy & Procedure meeting produces a bi-annual newsletter which is cascaded to all agencies. **Action 1.3:** Develop shared training and learning focused on Neglect. **Impact:** Impact of training will be measured once the strategy is embedded, and further training is provided. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Neglect Practice Week was held in November 2023, which focused on the topic of Neglect and the launch of the screening tool. Neglect continues to be a priority area for Wokingham and is included in routine audits. The Berkshire West response to Neglect Strategy is to be published late 2024. **Recommendation 2:** The importance of establishing and understanding parents' learning needs/ borderline learning difficulty - BWSCP to produce local information, support, and guidance to remind practitioners that all contact with families where there are potential/additional learning needs, that all verbal or written communication is adapted to ensure they are accessible. **Action 2.1:** Working Group to be developed to consider: • Creating an easy read information sheet/leaflet for parents attending CiN meetings so they understand their role in meetings, what is being discussed. • Creating an easy read information sheet/leaflet for practitioners to remind them that all contact with families where there are potential/additional learning needs, that all verbal or written communication is adapted to ensure they are accessible. **Impact:** Parents Leaflet - A web page was created in March 2023 to host the Leaflet. From March 2023 to October 2023, the web page registered a total of 1931 views. From October 2023 to August 2024, the webpage registered a total of 5187 views. A strategy to ensure this remains an area of focus will be ongoing. This may include (but not exclusively be): • A schedule for BWSCP website updates. • A quarterly BWSCP newsletter.

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	Practitioner Guidance - A web page was created in March 2023. From March 2023 to October 2023, the web page registered a total of 1505 views. From October 2023 to August 2024, the web page registered a total of 6557 views. A strategy to ensure this remains an area of focus will be ongoing. This may include (but not exclusively be): • A schedule for BWSCP website updates. • A quarterly BWSCP newsletter. **Action 2.2:** Pan Berkshire Policy & Procedures - Children of Parents with Learning Disabilities Procedure, to be reviewed and refreshed to incorporate the learning from the review, with a specific focus on those parents who do not have a formal diagnosis, in line with the Equalities Act 2010. **Impact**: Wokingham Borough Council now have staff trained in 'parent assess', a tailored assessment for parents with learning disability. Action 2.3: Wokingham Children's Services to review the quality of direct work with non-verbal disabled children in care to ensure that all children with disabilities have the opportunity to be understood, communicate their wishes and feelings and have their say about issues that affect them. **Impact:** Training was delivered in November 2022, January, February and June 2023 – targeted at practitioners working with this client group. Communicating with children is now embedded in the training offer in Wokingham and direct work is routinely audited as part of the core audit programme. **Recommendation 3:** Child in Need - Building on existing audit and review work in relation to the Child in Need process, BWSCP will produce good practice guidance which will facilitate effective multi-agency involvement in Child in Need meetings. **Action 3.1:** Working Group to be developed to consider creating local guidance and resources focusing on: • Multi-agency practitioner engagement at Child in Need meetings, which includes establishing which organisations and practitioners know the family, should be included in the Child in Need process, may be best placed to communicate with the family. • Including advice on the roles and responsibility of practitioners attending Child in Need meetings. • Ensuring that all children, regardless of age, disability, or language, must be consulted as part of the Child in Need reviewing process. • Including a separate a family friendly advice leaflet for Child in Need meetings. **Impact:** See data reported under Recommendation 2 above. **Recommendation 4:** Working effectively to address Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) - As an outcome of this review, BWSCP will share the best practice resources being developed by the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (Practice improvement - CSA Centre) across the safeguarding network. Plus, the Local learning regarding working to address child sexual abuse that has emerged in early years and school settings involved in the review will be shared anonymously with the wider school Designated Safeguarding Lead network. **Action 4.1:** Pan Berkshire Policy & Procedures – Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment Procedure – to be reviewed and refreshed to incorporate the learning from the review.

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Action 4.2: BWSCP will share the following best practice resources being developed by the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse across the safeguarding network:

- Signs and indicators toolkit
- Communicating with children
- Supporting parents and carers
- Working with parents where adults have learning disabilities
- Specific resources for Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools

Impact: The webpage was created in December 2022. From December 2022 to October 2023, the web page registered a total of 1555 views. From October 2023 to August 2024, the web page registered a total of 2315 views.

A strategy to ensure this remains an area of focus will be ongoing. This may include (but not exclusively be):

- A schedule for BWSCP website updates.
- A quarterly BWSCP newsletter or start.

Action 4.3: Wokingham Children's Services will consider how the best practice resources from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (above) will be implemented. Thought will need to be given about how the messages containing within 'Working with Parents' are shared where adults have learning disabilities.

Impact: Wokingham Children's Services Practice Model has been updated April 2023 to include a section on working with parents with borderline disabilities.

Action 4.4: The Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group will consider how they will support General Practitioners on how to implement best practice resources from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (above).

Impact: The impact is difficult to quantify. In relation to advice and queries regarding management of potential CSA concerns the Safeguarding team have received few, if any since dissemination of this information. Therefore, it is likely the e-learning has supported GPs by increasing their increasing knowledge of CSA.

Action 4.5: Local learning regarding working to address child sexual abuse has emerged in early years and school settings for the children under review, and it is recommended that this learning is shared with the wider school Designated Safeguarding Lead network.

Impact: Web page views figures shared above.

Recommendation 5: Working effectively to address child sexual abuse – BWSCP to ask Wokingham Children's Services to review the use of working agreements in terms of appropriateness, ability to keep children safe and understandability for families.

Action 5.1: Wokingham Children's Services review the use of working agreements in terms of appropriateness, ability to keep children safe and understandability for families.

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	Impact: Children plans format has been updated during 2023 to ensure they are simpler to use and easier to understand. **Recommendation 6:** Supporting practitioners through up-to-date and clear safeguarding procedures - BWSCP to work with colleagues across Berkshire, and the procedures provider, to review the following Pan Berkshire Child Protection Procedures and raise awareness of the revised procedure across the local agency network. **Action 6.1:** Pan Berkshire Policy & Procedures for the following to be reviewed and refreshed to incorporate the learning from the review: • Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment • Children of Parents with Learning Disabilities • Neglect **Impact:** Changes to the chapters were circulated in the Pan Berkshire Children Policy and Procedures Newsletter, which is also published on the BWSCP website during February 2023. The amended Recognising Abuse and Neglect Core Berkshire wide Procedure was published during September 2024 and the Practice Guidance Neglect chapter was revised and published in May 2024. BWSCP promoted the update via their Pan Berkshire Policy and Procedure Newsletter and encouraged colleagues to cascade the information within their agencies.
Please provide an analysis of the impact of the actions on children and young people	See impact statements above.

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